

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 2, 15 and 16, add new claims 17 and 18 and amend claim 1, wherein underlining indicates additions and double bracketing indicates deletions, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A touch pad scoring apparatus for a dart game including a dart board that is separate from the touch pad scoring device and at least one dart, the touch pad scoring apparatus comprising:

a stand alone housing;

an electronic controller within the housing;

a touch pad supported by the housing and having:

a graphical representation of the dart board on its face,

a plurality of touch pad segments on the graphical representation of the dart board, each of the touch pad segments corresponding to an associated dart board segment,
and

a plurality of sensors adapted to detect the presence of pressure applied to any one of the plurality of touch pad segments and to generate a signal corresponding to the touch pad segment to which pressure has been applied, the plurality of sensors being operatively connected to the controller;

an electronic game memory operatively connected to the controller; and

an electronic display operatively connected to the controller;

whereby:

pressure applied to at least one of the touch pad segments associated with the graphical representation of the dart board corresponding to ~~[[a]]~~the dart board segment struck by a thrown dart causes a score associated with the struck dart board segment to be electronically tracked by the game memory, and

the controller causes a signal corresponding to the score to be output to the electronic display.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The touch pad scoring apparatus of claim 1, wherein the touch pad segments are in the form of a plurality of input keys.
4. (Original) The touch pad scoring apparatus of claim 1, wherein the game memory is capable of tracking scores of multiple players through multiple rounds of a game of darts.
5. (Original) The touch pad scoring apparatus of claim 4, further comprising a plurality of electronic displays.
6. (Original) The touch pad scoring apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of control buttons.
7. (Original) The touch pad scoring apparatus of claim 6, wherein the user may select one of a plurality of dart game variations using one of the plurality of control buttons, and wherein the controller and game memory are capable of tracking scores of multiple players in accordance with the rules of the selected dart game variation.
8. (Original) The touch pad scoring apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
 - a sound generator operatively connected with the controller;
 - a sound memory storing information corresponding to at least one sound recording, the sound memory operatively connected to the controller;
 - wherein the controller causes the at least one sound recording to be audibilized upon occurrence of a triggering event.
9. (Original) The touch pad scoring apparatus of claim 8, wherein the triggering event is initial activation of power to the touch pad scoring apparatus.
10. (Original) The touch pad scoring apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:
 - a next turn control button, the next turn control button generating a signal to the controller indicating that a player's turn is complete, wherein the triggering event is activation of the next turn control button.
11. (Original) The touch pad scoring apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
 - at least one light.
12. (Original) The touch pad scoring apparatus of claim 11, wherein the at least one light is capable of emitting light of a plurality of different colors.
13. (Original) The touch pad scoring apparatus of claim 12, wherein each of the plurality of different colors corresponds to a different condition occurring in the course of the dart game.

14. (Original) The touch pad scoring apparatus of claim 12, wherein the at least one light is a light emitting diode.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (New) A method of maintaining the score of a dart board game using an electronic touch pad scoring apparatus that is separate from a dart board, the electronic touch pad scoring apparatus including a housing, an electronic controller within the housing, a touch pad supported by the housing with a plurality of touch pad segments mounted within a graphical dart board representation of the dart board, each touch pad segment associated with a corresponding dart board segment located on the graphical dart board representation, an electronic game memory connected to the controller and an electronic display connected to the controller, the method comprising the steps of:

a) impacting a dart board segment with a dart;

b) applying pressure to at least one touch pad segment on the graphical dart board representation corresponding to the dart board segment struck by the dart, the touch pad segment being separate from the dart board and being located on the graphical dart board representation;

c) sensing the pressure applied to the at least one touch pad segment;

d) generating a signal corresponding to the at least one touch pad segment to which pressure is applied;

e) transferring the signal to the controller;

f) converting the signal to a numerical score;

g) maintaining a cumulative score in the game memory based upon multiple numerical scores obtained in multiple rounds of the dart game; and

h) displaying the cumulative score on the electronic display.

18. (New) The method of claim 17 comprising the further step of:

i) selecting a dart game variation using a control button wherein the control button is mounted to the electronic scoring apparatus.